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Newspaper and book as indicated.

AMENDMENTS TO THE 1947 CONSTITUTION OF ESTONIAN SSR

The Third Session of the Supreme Soviet Estonian SSR, Third Convocation, held in Tallin on 14 January 1953, adopted amendments to the Constitution of the Estonian SSR and made certain changes in the personnel of the Council of Ministers and the Supreme Soviet of the Republic.(1)

Among the more important changes in the basic law of the republic brought about by these amendments are the following: the elimination of that part of Article 9 which made it possible for peasants to possess personal land holdings; that section of Article 8 that permitted the existence of "small private industrial and trading enterprises"; the confirmation of the ukases of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet Estonian SSR of 3 May 1952 which provided for the division of the re-; and the establishment of public into three oblasts oblast soviets, courts, and prosecutors' offices.

Those articles that have been changed or amended are presented in the right-hand column below, as they appeared in Sovetskaya Estoniya, 17 January 1953.(2) The corresponding articles from the Constitution of the Estonian SSR as amended by the Supreme Soviet Estonian SSR, Second Convocation, November 1947, are presented in the left-hand column, as they appeared in Konstitutsiya (Osnovoy Zakon) SSSR; Konstitutsii (Osnovnyye Zakony) Soyuznykh Sovetskikh Sotsialisticheskikh Respublik (3)

Words or phrases in parentheses in the left-hand column (the 1947 Constitution) are those that have been deleted from the 1953 Constitution. Words or phrases in parentheses in the right-hand column (the 1953 Constitution) are those that do not appear in the 1947 Constitution.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources. 7

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CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ESTONIAN SSR

1947 Constitution7

/1953 Constitution7

tonian SSR is the socialist system of

economy and socialist ownership of the instruments and means of production, es-

tablished as the result of the liquida-

the instruments and means of production

(and the abolition of) the exploitation

the abolition of private ownership of

of man by his fellow man.

tion of the capitalist system of economy,

The economic foundation of the Es-

I. Social Structure

Article 4

Article 4

The economic foundation of the Estonian SSR is the socialist system of economy and socialist ownership of the instruments and means of production, established as the result of the liquidation of the capitalist system of economy, the abolition of private ownership of the instruments and means of production (in large-scale industrial enterprises and the nationalization of these enterprises, banks, transport, and means of communication with a view to the complete abolition of) the exploitation of man by his fellow man (and the construction of a socialist society.)

Article 6

The land, its resources, water, forests, (large-scale) plants, (and) factories, mines, pits, rail transport, water transport, and air transport, banks, means of communication, large state-organized agricultural enterprises -- state farms, machine and tractor stations, etc. -- as well as communal enterprises and (large homes) in cities and industrial points are state property -- that is the property of all the people.

Article 6

The land, its resources, water, forests, plants, factories, mines, pits, rail transport, water transport, and air transport, banks, means of communication, large state-organized agricultural enterprises -- state farms, machine and tractor stations, etc. -- as well as communal enterprises and (basic housing resources) in cities and industrial points are state property -- that is the property of all the people.

 $\sqrt{\text{N}}\text{ote}$ that Articles 8 and 9 below have been reversed and parts of each have been interchanged.7

Article 9

(The land occupied by peasants' farms within the limits prescribed by law is secured for their use free of charge and for an unlimited time.)

The land occupied by kolkhozes is secured for them free of charge and for an unlimited time, that is, perpetually.

Article 8

Side by side with the socialist system of economy in the Estonian SSR, private enterprises of individual peasants, (artisans), and handicraftsmen

Article 8

The land occupied by kolkhozes is secured for them free of charge and for an unlimited time, that is, perpetually.

Article 9

Side by side with the socialist system of economy, (which is the dominant form of economy) in the Estonian SSR, the law allows (small) private

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(and small private industrial and trading enterprises) are allowed within limits prescribed by law.

Article 10

The personal property rights of citizens regarding their incomes and savings from their work, their dwelling and subsidiary home enterprises, (household stocks) and articles of household use, articles of personal use and convenience, as well as the right to inherit personal property, are protected by law.

enterprises of individual peasants and handicraftsmen, (based on individual labor and excluding the exploitation of another's labor.)

Article 10

The personal property rights of citizens regarding their incomes and savings from their work, their dwelling and subsidiary home enterprises, articles of household (economy and) use, articles of personal use and convenience, as well as the right to inherit personal property, are protected by law.

II. State Structure

Article 14

The Estonian SSR consists of the (following rayons: Ab'yaskiy, Antslaskiy, etc.) /for complete list of these rayons 7, (and of the following cities of republic subordination: Tallin, Tartu, Narva, Pyarnu and Kokhtla-Yarve.)

Article 19

The Estonian SSR, through its higher organs of state power and organs of state administration, has authority over:

- b. The establishment of (the administrative-territorial divisions of the Estonian SSR and also of the boundaries of rayons, cities, settlements, and rural soviets).
- g. The determination, in conformity with the laws of the USSR, of state and local taxes, collections, and revenues derived from sources other than taxes, as well as the supervision of the fulfillment of local budgets.

Article 31

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet Estonian SSR

d. Rescinds decrees and regulations of the Council of Ministers Estonian SSR and also decisions and regulations of (rayon) soviets of workers' deputies in cases in which they are not in accord with law.

Article 14

The Estonian SSR consists of the (Pyarnuskaya, Tallinskaya, and Tartuskaya oblasts.)

Article 19

The Estonian SSR, through its higher organs of state power and organs of state administration, has authority over:

- b. The establishment of (boundaries and rayon divisions of oblasts and also the presentation of proposals for approval by the Supreme Soviet USSR on the formation of new oblasts in the Estonian SSR.)
- g. The determination, in conformity with the laws of the USSR, of state and local taxes, collections, and revenues derived from sources other than taxes, as well as the supervision of the fulfillment of local budgets (of oblasts).

Article 31

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet Estonian SSR

d. Rescinds decrees and regulations of the Council of Ministers Estonian SSR and also decisions and regulations of (oblast) soviets of workers' deputies in cases in which they are not in accord with law. STAT



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Article 43

The Council of Ministers Estonian SSR

e. Supervises and checks on the work of executive committees of (rayon) soviets of workers' deputies.

Article 44

The Council of Ministers Estonian SSR has the right to rescind orders and instructions of ministers of the Estonian SSR, decisions and regulations of executive committees of (rayon) soviets of workers' deputies, and also has the right to suspend decisions and regulations of (rayon) soviets of workers' deputies.

Article 52

Soviets of workers' deputies are the organs of state power in rayons, cities, settlements, and villages.

Article 53

Rayon, city, settlement, and rural soviets of workers' deputies are chosen by the workers of the rayon, city, settlement, or village, for a term of 2 years.

Article 54

Rayon, city, settlement, and rural soviets of workers' deputies supervise the cultural and political, and economic construction within their territory, establish the local budget, supervise the activity of their subordinate administrative organs, insure the defense of public order, assist in the strengthening of the defense capability of the country, and guarantee the observance of laws and the protection of civil rights.

Article 56

Executive committees, consisting of a chairman, his deputies, a secretary, and members, are elected by and are the executive and administrative organs of rayon, city, settlement, and rural soviets of workers' deputies.

Article 43

The Council of Ministers Estonian $\ensuremath{\mathsf{SSR}}$.

 e. Supervises and checks on the work of executive committees of (oblast) soviets of workers' deputies.

Article 44

The Council of Ministers Estonian SSR has the right to rescind orders and instructions of ministers of the Estonian SSR, decisions and regulations of executive committees of (oblast) soviets of workers' deputies, and also has the right to suspend decisions and regulations of (oblast) soviets of workers' deputies.

Article 52

Soviets of workers' deputies are the organs of state power in (oblasts,) rayons, cities, settlements, and villages.

Article 53

(Oblast), rayon, city, settlement, and rural soviets of workers' deputies are chosen by the workers of the (oblast), rayon, city, settlement, or village, for a term of 2 years.

Article 54

(Oblast), city, settlement, and rural soviets of workers' deputies supervise the cultural and political, and economic construction within their territory, establish the local budget, supervise the activity of their subordinate administrative organs, insure the defense of public order, assist in the strengthening of the defense capabilities of the country, and guarantee the observance of laws and the protection of civil rights.

Article 56

Executive committees, consisting of a chairman, his deputies, a secretary, and members, are elected by and are the executive and administrative organs of (oblast,) rayon, settlement, and rural soviets of workers' deputies.

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Article 59

Sessions of rayon soviets of workers' deputies are convened by their executive committees not less than six times a year.

Article 65

Higher soviets of workers' deputies have the right to annul decisions and regulations of lower soviets of workers' deputies and of their executive committees.

Article 59

(Sessions of oblast soviets of workers' deputies are convened by their executive committees not less than four times a year).

Sessions of rayon soviets of workers' deputies are convened by their executive committees not less than six times a year.

Article 65

Higher soviets of workers' deputies have the right to annul decisions and regulations of lower soviets of workers' deputies and of their executive committees.

a. Oblast soviets of workers' deputies will establish the following sections and administrations under their executive committees:

Sections:

Architectural affairs

Trade

Local fuel industry

Local industry

Municipal services

Cultural and educational affairs

Arts affairs

Soil improvement

Finance

Public education

Social security

Roads

Public health

General

Administrations:

Cinema installations

Rural and kolkhoz construction affairs

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Agriculture

Planning commission

Personnel sector under the chairman of the executive committee

In addition, in accordance with peculiarities of the economy of the oblast, oblast soviets of workers' deputies, with the approval of the Union-Republic Ministries of Light Industry, Meat and Dairy Industry, Forestry, State Farms, and Food Industry, form sections or administrations of:

Light industry

Meat and dairy industry

Forestry

State farms

Food industry

- (b. In accordance with conditions existing in the oblast and in conformity with the laws of the USSR and the Estonian SSR, All-Union Ministries, the Ministry of Internal Affairs Estonian SSR, the Ministry of State Security Estonian SSR, and the Ministry of Justice Estonian SSR form their own administrations under oblast soviets of workers' deputies)
- (c. Sections and administrations of the executive committees of oblast soviets of workers' deputies are subordinate in their activities to the proper oblast soviet of workers' deputies and its executive committee as well as to the corresponding Ministry of the Estonian SSR.)

/Note: Thus the Finance Section of the Executive Committee of Tallinskaya Oblast Soviet is subordinate to and responsible to the Executive Committee of Tallinskaya Oblast Soviet, the Tallinskaya Oblast Soviet, and the Ministry of Finance Estonian SSR.-7

Article 66

Rayon soviets of workers' deputies form the following subordinate sections of their executive committees:

Article 66

Rayon soviets of workers' deputies form the following subordinate sections of their executive committees:

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Trade

Local industry

Municipal services

Cultural and educational work

Agriculture

Finance

14.

Public education

Social security

Roads

Public health

General

Planning commission

Personnel sector under the chairman of the executive committee

In addition, in accordance with the peculiarities of the economy of the rayon and with the approval of the (corresponding Ministries,) rayon soviets of workers' deputies may establish other sections (or administrations.)

Article 67

In accordance with the conditions of the rayon, and on the basis of laws of the USSR and the Estonian SSR, (All-Union ministries and the Ministry of Internal Affairs create) their own (administrations) under rayon soviets of workers' deputies.

Article 68

Sections (and administrations) of the executive committees of rayon soviets of workers' deputies are subordinate in their activity to the rayon soviet of workers' deputies and its executive committee and to the corresponding (ministry of the Estonian SSR.) Trade

(Cinema installations)

Local industry

Municipal services

Cultural and educational work (Rural and kolkhoz construction

affairs)

Agriculture

Finance

Public education

Social security

Roads

Public health

General

Planning commission

Personnel sector under the chairman of the executive committee

In addition, in accordance with the peculiarities of the economy of the rayon and with the approval of the (oblast soviet of workers' deputies), rayon soviets of workers' deputies may establish other sections.

Article 67

In accordance with the conditions of the rayon, and on the basis of laws of the USSA and the Estonian SSR, (and with the approval of the corresponding oblast soviet of workers' deputies, (the Ministry of Internal Affairs Estonian SSR form) their own (sections) under rayon soviets of workers' deputies.

Article 68

Sections of the executive committees of rayon soviets of workers' deputies are subordinate in their activity to the rayon soviet of workers' deputies and its executive committee and to the corresponding (section of the executive committee of the oblast soviet of workers' deputies.) STAT



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Article 70

Sections of executive committees of city soviets of workers' deputies are subordinate in their activity to the city soviet of workers' deputies and its executive committee and to the corresponding section of the executive committee of the rayon soviet of workers' deputies.

Article 71

Sections of the executive (committees of the city soviets of workers' deputies of the cities of Tallin, Tartu, Narva, Pyarnu, and Kokhtla-Yarve are subordinate in their activity to the soviets of workers' deputies of these cities and their executive committees) and directly to the corresponding ministry of the Estonian SSR.

Article 76

The budgets of rayon, city, settlement, and rural soviets include revenues from the local economy, deductions from the state revenues received on their territory, and receipts from local taxes and collections in the sum established by the laws of the USSR and the Estonian SSR.

Article 77

In the Estonian SSR, justice is administered by the Supreme Court of the Estonian SSR, by people's courts, and also by special USSR courts, set up by decrees of the Supreme Soviet USSR.

Article 80

The Supreme Court of the Estonian SSR is chosen by the Supreme Soviet Estonian SSR for a term of 5 years.

Article 86

The Public Prosecutor of the Estonian SSR is appointed by the Prosecutor General of the USSR for a term of 5 years.

Article 70

Sections of executive committees of city soviets of workers' deputies are subordinate in their activity to the city soviet of workers' deputies and its executive committee and to the corresponding section of the executive committee of the rayon soviet of workers' deputies (or directly to the corresponding section of the executive committee of the oblast soviet of workers' deputies.)

Article 71

Sections of the executive (committee of the city soviet of workers' deputies of Tallir are subordinate in their activity to the city soviet of workers' deputies of Tallin and its executive committee) and directly to the corresponding ministry of the Estonian SSR.

Article 76

The budgets of (oblast,) rayon, city, settlement, and rural soviets include revenues from the local economy, deductions from the state revenues received on their territory, and receipts from local taxes and collections, in the sum established by the laws of the USSR and the Estonian SSR.

Article 77

In the Estonian SSR, justice is administered by the Supreme Court of Estonian SSR, by (oblast and) people's courts, and also by special USSR courts, set up by decrees of the Supreme Soviet USSR.

Article 80

The Supreme Court of the Estonian SSR is chosen by the Supreme Soviet Estonian SSR for a term of 5 years.

(a. Oblast courts are chosen by oblast soviets of workers' deputies for a term of 5 years.)

Article 86

The Public Prosecutor of the Estonian SSR (and oblast public prosecutors) are appointed by the Prosecutor General of the USSR for a term of 5 years.

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Article 105

The election of deputies to all soviets of workers' deputies -- the Supreme Soviet Estonian SSR, rayon, city, settlement, and rural soviets of workers' deputies -- is on the basis of a general, equal, direct, and secret ballot.

Article 105

The election of deputies to all soviets of workers' deputies -- the Supreme Soviet Estonian SSR, (oblast), rayon, city, settlement, and rural soviets of workers' deputies -- is on the basis of a general, equal, direct, and secret ballot.

SOURCES

- 1. Tallin, Sovetskaya Estoniya, 15 Jan 53
- 2. Ibid., 17 Jan 53
- 3. Konstitutsiya (Osnovnoy Zakon) SSSR; Konstitutsii (Osnovnyye Zakony) Soyuz-nykh Sovetskikh Sotsialisticheskikh Respublik (Constitution /Fundamental Law/of the USSR; Constitutions /Fundamental Laws/of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), State Publishing House of Juridical Literature, Moscow, 1951, pp 433-458

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